

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 05960 201958Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 EB-07 COME-00 NSF-01 NAS-01
 ERDA-05 NASA-01 TRSE-00 /032 W
 071204 /66
R 201922Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5971

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OAS, TECH, CS
SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS WORKING GROUP MEETING

REF: STATE 299448

1. EMBOFF SPOKE TO US/OAS DESK OFFICER AT COSTA RICAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CONICIT REGARDING
THE JANUARY TEWG MEETING. BOTH WERE AWARE OF THE MEETING.

2. DESK OFFICER SAID THAT SHE WAS AWARE OF MEETING THROUGH
INFORMATION CONVERSATIONS WITH OAS OFFICIALS, BUT THAT A
FORMAL INVITATION FROM THE OAS TO ATTEND THE MEETING HAD NOT
BEEN RECEIVED BY COSTA RICA. THUS FAR, COSTA RICA HAS NOT
MADE ANY PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING. ACCORDING TO THE
DESK OFFICER, THE COSTA RICANS WERE INFORMALLY TOLD BY THE
OAS THAT THE OAS SECRETARIAT WOULD NOT FUND TRAVEL AND OTHER
EXPENSES FOR THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE WASHINGTON MEETING.
FOR THIS REASON, THE DESK OFFICER CONTINUED, COSTA RICA WILL
PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO SEND A TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED
REPRESENTATIVE FROM HERE.

3. CONICIT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REITERATED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
CONCERN ABOUT LACK OF OAS FUNDS TO ASSIST COUNTRIES WISHING
TO ATTEND THE MEETING. HE ADDED THAT IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION
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THE LACK OF OAS SECRETARIAT FUNDS INDICATED A DESIRE BY THE BIGGER
COUNTRIES TO EXCLUDE SMALLER COUNTRIES FROM THE MEETING.
HE SAID HE HAD REACHED THIS CONCLUSION AFTER TALKING WITH VARIOUS
OAS OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON SOMETIME LAST MONTH. EXTOFF
DISCUSSED U.S. VIEW OF CONFERENCE WITH CONICIT EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY. HE LISTENED POLITELY, BUT DID NOT CHOOSE TO

COMMENT OR TO VOLUNTEER COSTA RICA'S VIEWS OR OBJECTIVES.

4. COMMENT. COSTA RICA ALWAYS HAS A PROBLEM IN FUNDING REPRESENTATION AT SPECIAL MEETINGS. IT APPEARS THAT IN THE CASE OF THE TEWG MEETING, COSTA RICA WILL FOLLOW ITS USUAL PATTERN AND BE REPRESENTED BY A MEMBER OF ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. TODMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PLANNING MEETINGS, CONSULTANTS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANJO005960
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760467-0688
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761228/aaaaaxsq.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 299448
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS WORKING GROUP MEETING
TAGS: TECH, CS, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006